

**STATE SENATOR • HANSEN CLARKE • 1ST DISTRICT**

# **Clarke Press Release**

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## **SEN. CLARKE'S FIRST BILL SIGNED INTO LAW**

**Gov. Granholm Signs Bail Bond Reform Bill Designed to Save Taxpayers  
Money and Reduce Jail Overcrowding**

LANSING- State Sen. Hansen Clarke (D-Detroit) indicated that he was honored to have his first bill signed into law today at a ceremony held in the Governor's Ceremonial Office. Senator Clarke's bill, Senate Bill 151, creates additional bail bond options designed to save taxpayers money and reduce jail overcrowding.

"It was very gracious of Governor Granholm to hold a bill signing ceremony in recognition of my first Senate bill," said Sen. Clarke. "Today's ceremony is a reminder to me of what an honor it is to be in a position to help shape public policy and to serve the people of Detroit."

Senator Clarke's bill, Senate Bill 151, amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to provide criminal defendants with additional bail options. Under the provisions of the bill, if the court allows for the posting of a 10% deposit bond, the defendant would be permitted to post bail by a surety bond in an amount equal to 1/4<sup>th</sup> of the full bail amount.

“By giving defendants more options in meeting court ordered bail requirements we reduce jail overcrowding and improve court appearance rates,” said Clarke. “This bill saves taxpayers money in not having to house defendants awaiting trial or having to pursue no-shows.”

Defendants released on surety bonds have been shown to have a higher appearance rate (15% vs. 21%). The bill also provides the courts with additional monetary protection to guarantee the appearance of the accused. SB 151 is projected to save counties \$65+ per day for each defendant that uses the option.

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Editor’s Note: A digital photo of Governor Granholm and Senator Clarke at the signing ceremony is attached.